



## NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2016

Latest news

### **Carsten Rothballer: The beauty of the smart city approach is that everything is connected**



*Carsten Rothballer is Coordinator in ICLEI's Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience team. Expert at ICLEI Europe since 2009 addressing climate policy issues, with project experience in training, energy planning, integrated management and infrastructure, resilience, risk assessment and international networking on climate and energy issues.*

#### **Tell us, how would you describe GrowSmarter in a nutshell?**

GrowSmarter is special. It aims to showcase a series of 12 integrated smart city solution packages with numerous measures in the three Lighthouse cities Stockholm, Cologne and Barcelona. The solutions range from advanced information and communication technology and better connected urban mobility, to incorporating renewable energy sources directly into the city's supply network. The project enables public partnerships with the private sector in innovative, but not yet fully developed, profitable market segments. The idea is to create a ready market for these smart solutions to support growth, replication in our five Follower cities and enable the transition to a smart, sustainable Europe. Overall the project's goal is to contribute to sustainable development at a local level and provide a high(er) quality of life to citizens.

[Read more](#)

## Reducing energy consumption across Europe: the role of the people

By Verena Brennan, BuildSmart project

With the European 2020 targets approaching fast, there is an increased pressure on Member States to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and increase share of renewables as well as energy efficiency.

[Read more...](#)

## Can sustainable office buildings increase workers' productivity?

By Constanze Böttcher, DIRECTION project

Efforts to make buildings environmentally sustainable often focus on the technical side, such as energy efficiency. But there is more to sustainability than just energy efficiency. Sustainability is also about the people using the building.

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## New EU procurement rules: better quality, simplification and benefits for SMEs

New Directives on public procurement and concession contracts will enter into force on 18 April 2016 providing cities with more opportunities to promote smart cities solutions.

[Read more...](#)

## How to renovate Europe's buildings using less energy

Practical Approaches to the Building Renovation Challenge is a paper summarising the findings of buildings' experts i.e. researchers, engineers, architects and practitioners, from some 40 EU-funded projects.

[Read more...](#)

## EUSEW 2016 opens call for Energy Days

Energy Days is an initiative to raise awareness of sustainable energy use and renewables, taking place in June 2016 as part of the EUSEW. Do you have an idea for an event to encourage energy savings, inspire interest in renewables or boost business from green energy?

[Read more...](#)

## Towards Energy Union: The European Commission presents sustainable energy security package

The Commission unveiled a package of energy security measures to equip the EU for a global energy transition to address possible energy supply interruptions.

[Read more...](#)

### Events

#### CITYkeys webinar on KPIs and smart cities

7 March, 11:00  
Online

[More information...](#)

#### Ecobuild 2016

8-10 March 2016  
London, UK

[More information...](#)

#### 3rd Smart City Forum

15-16 March 2016  
Warsaw, Poland

[More information...](#)

## Projects

## Video



## PITAGORAS

The PITAGORAS project is focused on the efficient integration of city districts with industrial parks through smart thermal grids. The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate a highly replicable, cost-effective and highly energy efficient large-scale energy generation system that will allow sustainable urban planning of very low-energy city districts.

*Visit the project page...*

## A Green Revolution in the Heart of Spain

In 2014 scientists, engineers and building enterprises of the European project CITYfiED have started to give Torrelago, a district of Laguna de Duero, in the Spanish province of Valladolid, a green makeover. It is one of the biggest districts in projects of this kind and will be completed in 2017.

*Watch the video...*

*Visit the project page...*

## From the community

### @EU\_ScienceHub

Energy savings can be considered as "energy source in its own right", in line @EU\_Commission #energyunion [https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/europe-2030-energy-saving-become-first-fuel ...](https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/europe-2030-energy-saving-become-first-fuel...)

### @euenergyweek

We are looking for sustainable & #energy efficient projects related to consumers! <http://bit.ly/1SDPM63> #EUSEW16

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